

Message Text

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14

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00

RSC-01 TRSE-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 MC-02 AID-20 PM-09 L-03

OMB-01 T-03 RSR-01 /097 W
----- 108963

R 210940 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4855

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONGEN MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1010

FOR COMMERCE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, BGEN, RO

SUBJECT: EXPORT PROMOTION: CIVAIR: SALE OF HELICOPTERS TO ROMANIA

REFS: A) BUCHAREST 0818; B) BUCHAREST 732; C) BUCHAREST 723

1. REPS FROM VERTOL, HELICOPTER MANUFACTURING SUBSIDIARY OF BOEING COMPANY, COMPLETED INITIAL EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH TEHNOIMPORT FOR SALE OF THEIR MODEL 107 AIRCRAFT. (THIS IS THIRD US FIRM ACTIVELY CONSIDERING THIS INQUIRY, ALONG WITH BELL AND SIKORSKY.) THEY PLAN TO RETURN WITH FULL PROPOSAL FOR LICENSING AND SALE OF 130 HELICOPTERS IN ABOUT SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS. TOTAL VALUE OF PACKAGE ABOUT \$75 MILLION. VERTOL EXECUTIVES CONCERNED, HOWEVER, WITH UNDERTAKING COSTLY PREPARATION OF THIS SIZE PROPOSAL WITHOUT SOME REASONABLE ASSURANCE THAT EXPORT LICENSE WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM USG. COMPANY' S WASHINGTON REP WILL CONTACT COMMERCE ON THIS QUESTION WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS. SAME CONSIDERATIONS WHICH WE SET FORTH IN REFTEL B CONCERNING APPROVAL OF LICENSE APPLY IN RELATION TO VERTOL.

2. TEHNOIMPORT STILL PUSHING AHEAD QUICKLY ON THIS PROJECT AND HOPES TO BEGIN DETAILED DISCUSSION ON
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TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF CONTRACT WITH ANOTHER US FIRM, SIKORSKY, ON MARCH 21. SIKORSKY HAS SIMILAR CONCERN OVER EXPORT LICENSE QUESTION ALTHOUGH SIKORSKY'S WASHINGTON REP SAYS HE HAS RECEIVED SOME INDICATION THAT PROSPECTS FOR LICENSE ISSUANCE ARE GOOD.

3. COMMENT: ALL THREE US FIRMS SO FAR HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY ARE WEIGHING TIME AND COSTS NEEDED TO PREPARE PROPOSAL OF THIS MAGNITUDE AGAINST POSSIBILITY OF RUNNING INTO DIFFICULTIES WITH EXPORT LICENSE, AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE USG ATTITUDE TOWARD LICENSE APPROVAL. WE CONTINUE TO URGE THAT CAREFUL HIGH LEVEL CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO REACHING FAVORABLE DECISION ON GRANTING EXPORT LICENSE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE FOR REASONS WE SET FORTH IN REFTEL B. IN MEANTIME, WE CAN USE ANY GUIDANCE COMMERCE CAN PROVIDE ON CURRENT PROSPECTS FOR EXPORT LICENSE ISSUANCE SO THAT EMBASSY CAN REPLY TO MOUNTING QUERIES FROM BOTH GOR AND US COMPANY OFFICIALS.
MEEKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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